

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

POLICY SPEECH AT THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE 14TH SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

September 8, 2022

**Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
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Dear comrade Deputies,
Esteemed Chairman of the Standing Committee and
Deputy Speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly,

Dear observers,

The Seventh Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly, convened in the lead-up to the anniversary of the founding of our glorious country, has furnished us with vital legal tools for implementing the major policies of the Party and the government.

In particular, the adoption of a law reflecting the unanimous will of all the Korean people on the nation's nuclear forces policy is a significant event that proclaims at home and abroad that we have the legal right to possess a war deterrent as a means of defending our state.

Thus we have achieved another key historic breakthrough in establishing a political and institutional mechanism for decisively guaranteeing the security of our state and people into the distant future.

I affirm that the policy on our nuclear forces has been enshrined in law at this point in history, which is very important in view of the current state of our

revolution, the present situation, and the mission of our Republic's nuclear forces, and I express my gratitude to all the Deputies for adopting with unanimous approval this most important of laws at such a vital moment.

I also extend warm encouragement and greetings to the Deputies who, as representatives of the people, are devoting all their efforts, wisdom and passion to consolidating our state power and making it rock-solid, and to accomplishing the struggle objectives advanced at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Comrades,

The higher the stage of socialist construction we reach for achieving the independence of the masses, the greater become the challenge and resistance from the imperialists.

Imperialism's inherent nature and means of existence is aggression and plunder, and as long as it exists the source of war cannot be eliminated. Therefore, in the course of historical development, it is inevitable that there is antagonism and a struggle between imperialism and socialism, which aspires after independence and peace.

Therefore, it is a crucial and vital requirement in

achieving the steady development and prosperity of socialism that conditions and an environment be created that allow no threat of aggression; to this end, we should possess the absolute strength with which to overwhelm the enemy.

Our Republic, as a citadel of the anti-imperialist struggle and a fortress of socialism, has, in the face of every manner of intervention and pressure by hostile forces, been resolute in promoting the construction of a self-reliant national defence capability according to its own timetable. By doing so, it brought to an end the era when the US imperialists enforced a unilateral nuclear threat.

And today it has accomplished the historic cause of making permanent legal confirmation of the policy on the nuclear forces.

This is a clear demonstration of the independent resolve of the government of the Republic and its will to defend the sovereignty and interests of the state.

From its very earliest days our Republic has been subjected to a nuclear threat from the United States, the first country to use nuclear weapons and the largest nuclear power in the world. Our nuclear weapons are a means of containment and the ultimate

weapon which it has acquired by waging an arduous and bloody struggle for scores of years to defend its dignity and security and completely remove the danger of a nuclear war.

Citing the absurd sophistry that by possessing nuclear weapons and strengthening our self-defence capability we are posing a serious threat to global peace and regional security, the United States is now obsessed with spreading rumours in the international arena designed to demonize the government of our Republic. It is also intent on enforcing the harshest-ever sanction regime and blockade, and on conducting a political and military offensive, aimed at bringing us under its control psychologically and physically, to the point of even enlisting all its vassal forces.

What the United States is trying to achieve is not merely the removal of our nuclear weapons. Its final objective is one day to overthrow our government by inducing us to abandon our nuclear weapons and, further, to give up our self-defence capability, or at least to make that capability inferior to its own.

Through an unprecedented sanction regime and blockade, it is attempting to create a harsh environment for us, and to exhaust us and foster a

sense of uncertainty and threat with regard to the environment for the country's stable development. It is hoping to make us think about the cost of opting for nuclear weapons and to induce and incite complaints among our people about their Party and government. Its ultimate aim is to convince us to give up our nuclear weapons of our own accord.

Never!

The enemy is guilty of a grave misjudgment and miscalculation.

Let them impose sanctions for 100, nay 1 000 days, or even ten or 100 years.

We will not give up our right to self-defence on which the country's right to existence and the future security of the state and the people depend, simply to escape or circumvent our current difficulties. We will never give up our nuclear weapons, however harsh the circumstances may be in the face of the political and military conditions the United States has created on the Korean peninsula; moreover, we must take a long-term view in containing the United States, our nuclear enemy state.

Our people are well aware of the numerous historical events in the 20th and 21st centuries, in

which some countries saw and are seeing their final days and a tragic end as a result of wrong choices they made in the face of the US imperialists' overwhelming stereotyped preaching and sophistry, sanctions and pressure, and military threat.

Nuclear weapons guarantee the security of the government of our Republic and of the coming generations, and our generation will not sacrifice them in the interests of immediate and obvious economic benefits. We will not seek to find personal comfort or to escape our current difficulties, persuaded by the enemy's deceitful preaching and persistent pressure, nor will we change our mind even if this may mean our difficulties worsening.

In other words, we will remain the greatest and most steadfast generation in the history of our Republic.

The United States will never realize its ambitions with regard to our state or convince our people to change their mind.

Whose side is time on?

It is the enemy who are feeling hard-pressed now. We do not feel hard-pressed, and we are fully able to live by our own efforts and in our own way, even in the present circumstances.

Our absolute strength is continuing to rise at an exponential speed, as is the security threat the US is facing, in direct proportion to the increase in the period of suffering imposed on our people by its brutal hostile policy.

The nuclear forces of our Republic will act responsibly in performing their important mission to contain the grave current political and military provocations against our state from the United States and its vassal forces and the perspective threat from them. This was made clear in today's legal statute.

Our Republic values most its independence and self-respect and the destiny of its people; it never tolerates hostile acts that may do them harm, and it stands by its word. Because of this, it could take such an audacious political decision as to enshrine its nuclear forces policy in law.

At a time when the pursuit of hegemony is more rampant than ever, the world will clearly realize once again what is a truly independent, powerful country and a just state, and how mighty is the unquenchable spirit of our Republic in dealing squarely with the United States, the empire of evil.

Comrades,

When I look back on the arduous and protracted journey taken by our revolution since it was launched with two pistols, the countless historic events associated with it tug at my heartstrings.

The successes we have achieved are truly great. They feel even weightier and more valuable because they are a fruit of the unstinting support and encouragement from all the people, their precious sweat and blood, and their unprecedented painstaking efforts.

The fact is, we had to build up our Republic's nuclear forces and perfect its combat preparedness while standing alone in confronting the allied imperialist forces and dealing with their inhumane and outrageous sanctions and attempts at suffocation. It was a do-or-die battle we had to fight in the face of untold trials and suffering.

It meant that our beloved children and all the other people had to tighten their belts still further and suffer from greater hunger, and that all our dear families had to undergo appalling difficulties in life.

This was an unavoidable choice we had to make to win a greater victory. It was also an untrodden path on which we had to be prepared to suffer unbearable loss,

with an end that was hard to envision.

Nevertheless, our people gave their complete support to our Party for the cause which it had launched, trusting in them alone, and they committed single-hearted, all-out efforts to it, despite all manner of hardships.

Of course, our scientists and technicians have made tangible contributions to accomplishing the historic cause of building up the nation's nuclear forces; yet, but for our people, who remained fully convinced of victory and refused to yield to all the intolerable and persistent suffering, we could not have reached the end of the road of possessing nuclear weapons, nor could our Republic have greeted today, when the policy of the nuclear forces has been enshrined in law.

By overcoming every manner of trials by dint of their unique, strenuous fortitude and patriotism, our people have finally raised the glory and dignity of our state to such a height that no one would ever dispute it.

On behalf of the Party and government, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our people throughout the country.

Comrades,

That the policy on the nuclear forces has been

enshrined in law in accordance with the unanimous desire and iron will of all the people, is of tremendous significance.

With it, the position of our nation as a nuclear state has become irreversible.

If our nuclear policy is ever to be changed, the world has to change, as should the political and military environment on the Korean peninsula.

We will never give up our nuclear weapons or denuclearize first, nor will we negotiate to this end or use our nuclear weapons as a bargaining chip.

Its nuclear weapons represent our nation's dignity and honour; they symbolize the absolute might of our Republic and are a source of great pride for the Korean people.

As long as nuclear weapons and imperialism remain on Earth and as long as the United States and its vassal forces refuse to halt their anti-DPRK manoeuvrings, our journey to build up our nuclear forces will not end.

Our Republic's nuclear forces represent the destiny of the country and people and their lasting prestige—this is our steadfast stand.

We have drawn a line of no retreat regarding our

nuclear weapons, so there will no longer be any bargaining over them. Herein lies the greatest significance of enshrining the policy on the nuclear forces in law.

This event has made the peace-loving stand of the government of our Republic and our policy on the nation's nuclear forces more transparent and legitimate.

It is humanity's desire to live in a peaceful world free from aggression and war.

Yet, peace does not come of its own accord simply because people desire it; it is something that we can achieve and defend only when we are strong enough to contain the imperialist tyranny.

Our Republic's legalization of the policy on the nuclear forces constitutes a righteous blow to the imperialists who are violating and attempting to undermine the right to independence and peace.

Our Republic's nuclear forces exist and will be used to defend our territory, people and self-respect, as well as global peace and security, from the imperialist tyranny, and not to intervene in the internal affairs of other nations or pursue hegemony. Accordingly, in no way do they pose any threat to

those nations and peoples that are friendly to us and desire peace.

In view of their inherent characteristics, the standards and principles of management, operation and other matters related to nuclear weapons need to be clearly stipulated by law.

Otherwise, those nuclear weapons could be mismanaged and misused for other purposes, or employed in pursuance of unjustifiable ends, which could drag humanity into a terrible nuclear holocaust at any moment.

The new law on the policy of our Republic's nuclear forces lays out clear and detailed provisions relating to, for example, the mission and composition of the nuclear forces, control and command over them, the principles and conditions for their use, and their maintenance and safeguarding.

So, the law fully accords with the desire of humanity for justice and peace, and there is no room for anyone to pick a quarrel over, or question, our nuclear forces in the future.

This legal tool, aimed at fully guaranteeing the historic advance towards the comprehensive development of our own style of socialism, constitutes,

together with the proud victories and successes we have achieved this year, an epoch-making occasion for enhancing the fighting spirit of all our people.

This year the government of our Republic has been faced with the heavy task of building a high road to fulfilling the five-year plan laid out by the Eighth Party Congress.

Every aspect of the efforts to carry it out has met with unprecedented trials and ordeals, but our courageous and progressive struggle has borne more valuable fruits.

We rapidly overcame the threat from the public health crisis, the first of its kind since the founding of our state, by waging a tenacious struggle based on single-hearted unity—the unity of one mind and one body—and we defended the security of the state and people by returning the whole country to a clean zone. This was a great victory we achieved this year.

In the face of the doubts of the whole world, we displayed to the full the politico-ideological might and superiority of the socialist system by bringing the unprecedented battle against the epidemic to a victorious conclusion in record-breaking time. This instilled greater confidence and pride in the people

across the country and actively encouraged them to make more dynamic efforts for socialist construction.

In addition to the extremely grave health crisis, the country also suffered a series of natural disasters. However, all the people redoubled their efforts, with no sign of pessimism, disappointment, fear or despair, and determinedly pushed ahead with this year's formidable struggle tasks, including the immediate farming work and major construction projects. These are also miraculous achievements in which we should take great pride.

Such key industrial sectors as the metallurgical, chemical, electric-power and coal-mining industries, and rail transport, which are the buttresses of our self-supporting economy, and several other sectors directly related to improving the people's standard of living have scored laudable successes in fulfilling their production plans by waging an offensive struggle.

The unified guidance and management of overall state affairs, including economic work, are being further stepped up with their socialist character enhanced, and medium- and long-term projects are being designed and promoted with an eye to decades in the future. In this way we are laying the foundations

and creating assets for the country's economic development and the people's improved wellbeing.

Sci-tech research has been decisively oriented to solving practical problems in accordance with pragmatic plans and objectives. The country's education is developing in a balanced way, with the focus on training able talents. The public health sector has gained valuable experience with which to deal with any type of epidemic and other public health crisis. And significant progress has been made this year in developing socialist culture.

The victories and successes we have achieved this year clearly testify to the fact that our Republic is advancing vigorously towards comprehensive development and rejuvenation without any sign of stagnation, marking-time or frustration, and that it is overcoming the challenges, both subjective and objective, in all sectors.

Comrades,

Our Republic, holding higher the banner of independence and justice, has assumed a heavy responsibility before the times and history, and this demands a more vigorous struggle and advance, and a greater victory.

There is no doubt that the reactionary forces of all hues, shocked at our Republic's political measure of enshrining the policy on the nuclear forces in law, will become even more relentless and desperate.

The challenges and obstacles lying along our way will never be removed unless the hostile forces rid themselves of their deeply-ingrained, intuitive delusion that some day, by employing such stereotypical tricks as threats and intimidation, sanctions and allurement, they may completely disarm us of our nuclear weapons and bring about the collapse of our system.

The world will watch with keen interest how our people stick to their choice of building a powerful socialist country, how the DPRK carries out its resolve, and what other amazing miracles will be worked on this land.

To grow stronger in the face of trials and to develop and advance steadily by building on the successes it has already gained is a unique trait of our Republic, which it has demonstrated throughout the course it has followed.

As this immutable law dictates, we should continue to grow stronger in the future, too, and accomplish the

struggle tasks we have set ourselves unconditionally and to perfection, without ever deviating from the road we have chosen.

Today the government of our Republic is faced with the task of thoroughly maintaining and implementing the Party's lines and policies, with the aim of achieving fresh innovations and development in every field, as befits the prestige of our state.

The primary revolutionary task facing the government of our Republic is to maximize our ultimate strength and ensure the invincibility of our armed forces by giving top priority and importance to building up our national defence capability.

In view of the geopolitical features and strategic position of our country and the prevailing situation facing our revolution, it has been an essential requirement for our state to establish absolute military supremacy over the imperialist forces of aggression.

The United States, hugely fearful of what it might soon be facing after it witnessed those developments in our defence capability that we have publicly revealed in recent years, is continuing to cling to its heinous strategy of sanctions and blockade. At the same time, it is guilty of serious sabre-rattling through

the large-scale deployment of its nuclear weapons around the Korean peninsula.

Moreover, the present south Korean regime is trumpeting the south Korea-US combined defence posture, which it says is being enhanced by reinforcing the commitment to the south Korea-US “extended deterrence” and strengthening its own “deterrence” and “response capabilities” under the so-called south Korean-style “three-axis system.” In all of this, it is asserting the brigandish logic of containing us to make up for its army’s military inferiority. It is also stepping up its dangerous military manoeuvres and the modernization of its armaments, which is further aggravating the military tension in the region.

These serious developments show that the military situation around our state has assumed a protracted nature, going from bad to worse. Accordingly, we need to be thoroughly prepared.

However, the situation, aggravated by the enemy’s moves, has provided us with excellent conditions and the perfect environment for stepping up the development of our military forces and, more importantly, justness for strengthening our

self-defence capability and, ultimately, good reason with building it up on a priority basis.

The Ministry of National Defence and the defence industry of the Republic recognize the prevailing situation as the most favourable opportunity for building up our military capability.

Our defence industry should adhere strictly to the planned orientation of its development, true to the defence development strategy put forward by the Party Congress, and go ahead full steam with the development of a new generation of military hardware that is suited to modern warfare.

Most importantly, it is imperative to enhance the combat reliability and operational efficiency of our nuclear forces by steadily expanding the scope for the operation of our tactical nuclear weapons and diversifying and improving the means of their deployment. In this way we can achieve the all-round consolidation of our nuclear combat posture.

We also need to steadily step up the deployment of cutting-edge strategic and tactical weapons systems for combat, and to direct every effort to significantly improving our country's war deterrent.

We should further strengthen the politico-

ideological might that is unique to our state and give fullest play to it in all sectors.

Our people are all firmly united with one ideology and will, and with noble virtues and human feeling, and they are making devoted efforts for the prosperity of their country—this is the advantage unique to our country and the motive force behind all the great miracles we have achieved on this land.

The might of single-hearted unity—the invincible might of our style of socialism and the most powerful weapon of our state—should be further consolidated in ideology, purpose and moral obligation.

We must thoroughly apply the people-first politics of our Party in overall state affairs and step up the activities of state power to ensure that all the people take an active part in political affairs as masters of the state and society.

We should instil in all the members of society a sense of pride and dignity in having the best ideology, system, culture and lifestyle, and inspire them to continue to give full play to the collectivist spirit, communist virtues and the beautiful traits of our society.

Our country will always prosper when all the people remain faithful to their civic duties while

putting the interests of the state and the collective first in their consideration, and when they live and work as genuine socialist working people who commit their patriotic feelings to the development and prosperity of their country.

We should direct great efforts to preparing all the people and service personnel of the People's Army as vanguard class fighters and combatants who firmly safeguard their socialist country with a steadfast viewpoint on the archenemy and other enemies. In this way we can consolidate our politico-ideological and class positions.

The government of the Republic should push ahead dynamically with the struggle for implementing the five-year plan for national economic development and should follow up on the success at the next stage.

The most important revolutionary task facing the government is, by implementing the five-year plan without fail, to consolidate the foundations for achieving the comprehensive development of our own style of socialism and to find satisfactory solutions to such pressing problems concerning the improvement of the people's living standards as those of food and consumer goods.

The five-year plan is aimed at advancing towards sustained economic growth and a significant improvement in the people's living standards on the basis of the country's economic situation and current potential.

Once the five-year plan has been implemented, the overall national economy will be on a growth orbit in which its work system, the links among its sectors and its self-supporting foundations have been readjusted and reinforced and substantial changes have been brought about in solving the problems of food, clothing and housing for the people.

Already, in the past year and eight months, in accordance with the strategy of readjustment and reinforcement, the lifeblood and integrity of the country's economy have been further strengthened, many irrationalities in economic management have been rectified, and the normalization of production, the renovation of production lines and the provision of domestic raw and other materials have been actively promoted. In particular, the launch of a vigorous drive for building 50 000 flats in Pyongyang and for regional and rural construction has opened up bright prospects for solving the housing problem.

As the Eighth Party Congress made clear, GDP will increase by over 40 percent and the production of consumer goods by over 30 percent by the end of 2025 as compared to 2020. This shows that carrying out the five-year plan guarantees a boost for the country's economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards, and for marching confidently towards a more gigantic struggle at the next stage.

Although the economic difficulties currently facing us are severe, the government of the Republic, having assumed responsibility for the destiny and livelihood of the people, must set a correct struggle orientation for implementing the five-year plan and execute it forcefully, thereby ensuring that excellent results are achieved.

The Cabinet, as the country's economic headquarters, should properly regulate economic construction and development along the lines of strictly supervising overall economic work and pushing ahead with it as a whole.

In dealing with overall economic work for the country, it is important for our Cabinet to efficiently plan and direct the undertakings for developing the

national economy as a whole in a synchronized and balanced way.

...

The Cabinet should focus on the key sectors which are the cornerstone of the country's economy. At the same time it should be concerned about, take responsibility for and look after other economic sectors and the people's overall livelihood.

The system and order of placing the country's economic work under the control of the Cabinet are being strengthened. In line with this, the Cabinet should assume proper control of overall production and other economic activities, ensure organic links and cooperation among economic sectors, and take practical and timely steps for boosting those sectors that are lagging behind or are backward. In this way it can ensure balance, smoothness and efficiency in the country's economic work.

It should direct major, sustained efforts to agricultural production and the development of light industry with a view to settling the problems of food and consumer goods in the near future.

All the economic policies of our Party and government are geared towards providing the people

with an affluent life with nothing to envy by fully satisfying their material and economic needs.

We are pressing on with socialist construction, and it is, when all is said and done, a struggle for building the ideal society the people desire and dream about. So, the more we step up the struggle, the more substantial results we will reap for the benefit of the people.

If we fail to solve even the most elementary problems arising in the people's livelihood, and subject the people to enduring hardship, then our economic work will be futile, no matter how hard we try.

In stabilizing and improving the people's livelihood, nothing is more important than solving the problems of food and consumer goods.

During the five-year plan period, we should hit the national target for grain production without fail so as to supply the people with enough food, and should increase production in light industry in terms of both quality and quantity so as to solve the problems of daily necessities and basic foodstuffs.

An important task to this end is to put farming on a stable footing, increase agricultural productivity, adjust the structure of grain production, and improve

grain procurement and food supply.

Since the conditions and environment for farming are expected to become more unfavourable, it is necessary to take steps to cope.

Scientific and technological initiatives such as the seed revolution should be made the main link in the whole chain of farming, if we are to attain a high and stable harvest without being affected by any change in the climatic conditions. The whole country should be mobilized to provide labour assistance to the countryside, and sufficient amounts of materials supplied to meet the annual farming needs.

Officials in particular should acknowledge that the climatic conditions will be unfavourable, carry out an overall assessment of agricultural production, and, in line with this, provide scientific and planned guidance for farming.

An important way of reducing the imbalance in agricultural production and increasing its stability is to restore and improve irrigation facilities.

The whole country should join the effort to carry out the project for rebuilding irrigation facilities without fail in two or three years by restoring or readjusting what has been destroyed or is old, and by

installing more where necessary.

The area where wheat is cultivated, and its output, have begun to increase this year; from now on they should be increased annually. Simultaneously, the work of storing and processing the harvest should be carried out properly so that the policy of the Party and government on improving the people's diet can prove its practical worth.

...

Rural rejuvenation should be stepped up under the banner of the rural revolution programme in the new era.

Rural rejuvenation means solving the socialist rural question and is part of the struggle to defend socialism.

As is set out in the rural revolution programme in the new era, the primary task in this is to enlighten the agricultural workers.

Only when the level of consciousness of the agricultural workers, who are the masters of the rural revolution, is raised can they have a clear understanding of the rural revolution programme in the new era, play the core and leading role in implementing it, and make a positive contribution to

further developing the socialist countryside as required by the rapidly-changing times.

In order to broaden the agricultural workers' ideological consciousness, it is necessary to make the rural areas more modern and progressive.

We should push ahead energetically with the work of upgrading the agricultural production environment. This includes putting agricultural production on a scientific, modern and IT footing and introducing a high level of mechanization into farm work. By doing this, we will not only bring about a change in the ideological consciousness of the agricultural workers, but also transform and enrich all the rural communities.

We should draw up proper plans for rural construction that accord with the local and geographical features, with the main emphasis on housing construction. And we should carry these plans out step by step so that the rapid rejuvenation of our country's rural communities is tangible and appreciated by the farmers.

We should boost the country's fishing industry so that the people can be supplied with more fish.

The fishing industry should conduct various fish

farming activities steadily and extensively. These should include releasing fries and cage-net fish farming in all rivers and lakes, while simultaneously undertaking brisk sea fishing and sea culture.

In this, it is important to conduct regular scientific investigation into the state of the conservation and propagation of aquatic resources and, based on this, increase aquatic production on a planned basis.

We need to give a spur to the revolution in light industry so as to solve the problem of consumer goods.

...

Improving the quality of consumer goods is the essence and basic orientation of the revolution in light industry.

If we are so bent on fulfilling immediate plans that we continue to produce low-quality consumer goods, ignoring the needs and desires of the people who are becoming more cultured by the day, then the country's light industry will drift into a vicious cycle and there will be no hope for its development.

The light industry sector should help its scientists, technicians and workers to broaden their horizons and steadily raise their technical level and skills. It should make exacting demands for ensuring the quality of the

raw and other materials, and for modernizing production lines and quality control work. In this way, it can fully guarantee the quality of consumer goods with the people's appraisal as the standard.

By bolstering regional industries across the country, we should usher in a new era in which regions are transformed and develop by themselves.

If the local-industry factories in all the cities and counties play their proper role, they can solve a number of problems in developing the country's economy and improving people's living standards.

Having renovated its local-industry factories, Kimhwa County is meeting local demand with its own sources of raw materials. We should push ahead powerfully with the work of expanding this practical experience to all the cities and counties across the country.

With regard to this, the state should establish a committee to take responsibility for renovating the local-industry factories in cities and counties, including their design and the execution of their construction, and push ahead with the projects.

However, the current capacity of cities and counties is weak. So, after the factories have been renovated,

we should take steps for securing raw materials for them and making initial investment in them until they can stand on their own feet.

Local-industry factories should focus on improving the quality of their products. In this way they can make a substantial contribution to improving the livelihood of the local people. And they should ensure expanded reproduction so that they can operate by their own efforts.

In implementing the five-year plan for national economic development, key industries should continue to fly the banner and take the overall lead in the national economy.

Key industries are the cornerstone and mainstay in our self-supporting economy; only when these sectors achieve an upsurge in production can the overall national economy rise up and a bright vista for economic development at the next stage be created.

To this end, the Party and the government have already disbursed a large sum of money to the metallurgical and chemical industries, and they intend to adopt further economic and practical measures necessary for renovating the electric-power industry and various other key industries, expanding

their capacity, and putting their production on a normal track.

The metallurgical, chemical and other key industrial sectors, as they strive to implement the plans pertaining to the strategy of readjustment and reinforcement, should carry out their production plans without fail and without delay. By doing so, they can build up a more powerful motive force and potential for the growth and development of the national economy.

In particular, the management of labour, equipment and technology should be regulated according to well-thought-out plans so as to prevent economic losses resulting from various equipment-related accidents, and a closer connection between production and consumption should be established from the standpoint of the state so as to enable the key industrial sectors to work without interruption.

All sectors and units of the national economy should make a tangible contribution to national economic development and the improvement of the people's livelihood by improving business and enterprise management in such a way that they can maximize profits while saving on everything,

including labour, energy, materials and land, starting from the viewpoint that economizing is synonymous with increased production and patriotism.

We need to draw up plans for long-term undertakings of great significance in the country's economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards, make scrupulous arrangements for them, and push ahead with them in a planned way and stage by stage.

Simply maintaining present production on the excuse of the country's economic difficulties is merely self-preservation and retreat, and an expression of abandoning the revolution.

Genuine patriots are those who fight on by sticking to the principle of planning, making arrangements for and performing any undertakings, be they big or small, so that their descendants can enjoy the fruits to the full, even in the distant future.

If something is genuinely for the good of the people and the prosperity of the country, we should set ourselves noble ideals and goals while persisting with the struggle to achieve them.

We need to keep channelling major efforts into projects that will provide our people with better and

excellent living conditions in the future, including the construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang and large-scale greenhouse farms.

If we are to continue to undertake ambitious construction projects in the future, too, we should build large-capacity building-materials production bases in Pyongyang and the local areas and produce and supply good quality building materials, including finishing materials, by ourselves.

Through the struggle to continuously carry out long-term grand construction projects and successfully complete them, we can demonstrate the development level of our state, where the people's long-cherished desires are being met one after another, and secure its rosy future.

We need to make scientific calculations and accurate action plans for long-term economic projects, including the construction of a major canal linking the East and West seas of Korea and, once they are launched, to make a nationwide effort to ensure that we make a success of them.

Among the important affairs the government of the Republic should push ahead with for the present are land administration and disaster prevention.

The heavy human casualties and material damage caused by extreme weather events are a serious challenge now being faced by the whole world, and disasters are occurring every year in our country, too.

Conserving rivers is akin to controlling the weather conditions, and river improvement is an intermediate- and long-range undertaking.

At present, river improvement work is being limited to dredging and building retaining walls along the riverbanks. It should be conducted according to intermediate- and long-range plans, in other words, a scientific river improvement strategy.

We should put water management on a scientific basis by carrying out an accurate assessment of the water adjusting capacity of the country's rivers and streams, creating buffer points based on a proper judgment, and perfecting the system of water management.

...

We need to continue directing a major effort to building up our national disaster prevention capacity so as to minimize the damage from natural phenomena. For the present, all provinces, cities and counties should ensure that they possess adequate

forces and equipment for saving people in the event of flooding.

We should push ahead more powerfully on a nationwide scale with the protection and management of the land and environment. This should include a forest restoration campaign, soil erosion control, dike projects for tide-water control, and road reconstruction.

Comrades,

It is the consistent policy of the government of the Republic to attach importance to education, science and technology, and public health, and to direct efforts to their development.

At present, we are badly in need more than ever before of a larger number of skilled individuals with practical abilities, as well as scientific and technological breakthroughs geared towards solving the actual problems we are facing.

The government of the Republic should put forward a talent strategy, a strategy of sci-tech development, as the core strategy for the comprehensive rejuvenation of the state, and give a powerful boost to its implementation.

The country's education is currently failing to

follow the global trends in development and meet the requirements of the times in terms of its quality.

Our education is not aimed at training able talents with practical abilities, and is merely education for education's sake, or for attaining grades. Therefore, it is of little help to national development.

The education sector should identify the best subjects for enabling students to spend their time and energy on acquiring more practical knowledge that is applicable in practice. It should radically improve the quality of universal 12-year compulsory education so as to enhance the ability of students pre-eminently, beyond comparison.

Kim Chaek University of Technology and other technical colleges should steadily raise the level of their education up to the world standard in order to ensure that all its graduates are competent and prominent scientific and technological talents.

A nationwide effort should continuously be directed to providing all teachers and students in Pyongyang and the local areas with ideal conditions for their education, practice and study.

The level and role of science and technology should be raised and the resources of technical talents

should be effectively promoted and managed.

...

The development of science and technology requires that research means and talents should be made ready. So, nationwide attention should constantly be paid to the matter and substantial measures be taken to resolve it.

As I have emphasized time and again, the scientific research sector should guard strictly against the attitude of simply making up the numbers of research achievements. Rather, it should present proper sci-tech results, even if only a few in number each year, which are capable of actually shoring up the country's economy.

All sectors and units should regularly study and substantially review the operation of sci-tech learning spaces, which are important bases for making all the people well versed in science and technology, and should steadily step up the dissemination of science and technology so as to activate the mass technical innovation drive.

...

We need to make sure that sci-tech achievements are shared, absorbed and propagated, that good

conditions are provided for gaining access to sci-tech data, and that outstanding units, scientists and technicians are given preferential treatment and recognition. This will help the climate of attaching importance to science and technology to pervade the whole society.

We should steadily improve our medical services in order to protect and promote the life and health of our people.

The recent public health crisis led to a comprehensive re-evaluation of the current state of our public health sector, and the urgency of raising its level and capacity has become all the more evident.

The most pressing problems in medical services should be resolved first, from the standpoint that the life and health of the people are the top priority.

Since the country is unable to produce all the medical supplies it needs by itself, those needed for the people's medical treatment and the promotion of their health should be provided in full, even if they have to be imported.

Along with this, the establishment and modernization of pharmaceuticals, medical appliances and medical supplies factories should be actively

promoted so as to domestically produce and supply various medicines and essential medical supplies. We must also press ahead in a planned way with the work of upgrading provincial, city and county hospitals and bringing pharmacies up to standard.

We need to ensure that all the doctors and nurses in the public health sector are fully qualified as protectors of human life, and as communists.

They should be encouraged to emulate the spiritual world of self-sacrificing devotion displayed by the medical workers who moved the people during the recent struggle to eradicate the malignant virus; in this way we can ensure that outstanding medical workers who cherish the word *devotion* deep in their hearts are found all across the country.

Efforts should be directed to raising medical science and technology to the world standard, and to developing an ideal people-oriented, advanced and efficient medical care system.

We should step up the building of our national anti-epidemic capacity.

This is a national issue of paramount importance that must not be delayed even for a moment, as there are various possibilities that malignant infectious

diseases may continue to break out both at present and in the future.

It is important to carry out those tasks put forward at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee and the National Meeting of Reviewing the Emergency Anti-epidemic Work that relate to building the state's anti-epidemic capacity, and also to examine them on a case-by-case basis.

In particular, the state should at all times be alert to the volatile epidemic situation outside the country and the characteristics of diseases, and pay attention to developing our capacity for promptly detecting and controlling a disease, should it enter our territory.

...

Recently, the World Health Organization and public health institutions in different countries have been warning of the need to be thoroughly prepared to cope with influenza as well as the spread of COVID-19 this winter.

And our epidemic experts are of the opinion that the antibody titres built up among our people during the outbreak of the epidemic in May and June, will begin to decline around October.

Therefore, while administering vaccines in a

responsible manner, we should recommend that, from November, all residents wear masks for their own protection.

...

Comrades,

In the present international situation we can see that the contradictions between justice and injustice and between the progressive and the reactionary, especially the balance of power around the Korean peninsula, are more pronounced, and that the change from a unipolar world advocated by the US into a multipolar world is being accelerated significantly.

Our Republic will develop its foreign relations proactively in line with the development trend in the current international situation and its position as a powerful independent country.

In the field of external affairs, the foremost mission of the Republic's diplomacy, which it must hold fast to, is to defend the dignity of our Party, enhance our national prestige and champion the national interests, settling any issues which arise in international relations in the interests of our revolution.

It should develop its external relations in a multifaceted way as it further expands and develops

friendly and cooperative relations with the neighbouring countries and collaborates with all countries and nations which oppose and reject the imperialists' aggression and interference, domination and subordination and which aspire after independence and justice, regardless of any differences in ideology and system.

Along with this, it should try to find a way of making diplomatic efforts for developing multifaceted exchanges and cooperation with those capitalist countries that respect our country and are friendly to it.

In order to build on today's proud victory and achieve an even greater victory in socialist construction by carrying out these tasks facing the government of the Republic, we should thoroughly establish the Party's unified leadership system in state building and activities.

The government of the Republic should organize and guide all affairs with the lines and policies of the Party as the absolute criteria, and orient its activities decisively to carrying out the Party's policies.

All government agencies should establish the revolutionary habit of accepting and implementing the

decisions and instructions of the Party unconditionally without the slightest excuse or pretext, and make it an iron rule which is inviolable in any circumstances to report all problems to the Party and deal with them in accordance with its decision.

The functions and role of the people's government organs should be enhanced.

The work of government organs, which embrace all domains of social life, is enormous and highly complex, and their duty and role are just as important.

All government organs should perform their duty faithfully, fully aware of their mission to represent the dignified government of the Republic in their regions and to assume responsibility for the people's livelihood.

They should take full charge of the policies and instructions of the Party and government for their regions and units, draw up plans and give guidance in a responsible way so that they are fully implemented, and should create positive conditions and a positive environment in which institutions, enterprises, cooperative organizations and residents can carry out their work and activities smoothly and effectively.

They should make devoted efforts to ensure that all the children and families enjoy the benefits of the

people-oriented policies of the Party and government fairly and without exception, always learn about problems relating to the people's lives, including the matters of drinking water and fuel, and adopt carefully-thought-out measures in advance to prevent even the slightest inconvenience or trouble.

All officials, as leading members of the revolution, should have extraordinary ideological preparedness and determination and make strenuous efforts.

In our society, officials should be servants in the true sense of the word.

The word *official* is not something related to any honour or authority, and the value of officials' existence is inconceivable separated from their natural mission of serving the people.

If officials enjoy a life of comfort and luxury, this is not true socialism, and they are adding to the people's troubles.

Officials should never forget that their positions require them to shoulder a heavier burden and to work harder for the Party and revolution, and the country and people. They should be boundlessly faithful to their duties, always feeling under pressure and experiencing an acute sense of responsibility, without

being distracted for even a moment.

When there is a new job to be done, they should not avoid it or adopt stopgap measures, but should take the lead by drawing up a detailed plan, commanding the work and throwing themselves into it with the trait of setting a personal example so as to bring about good results.

They should heighten their sense of responsibility and increase their role in work, constantly cultivate their mind and morality in order to live honourably before the Party and people, and become truly vital officials who know nothing but the revolution and work, and can fulfil their duties flawlessly.

...

Comrade Deputies,

We will soon be celebrating the 74th anniversary of the founding of the glorious Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

On this significant occasion, our Republic brilliantly recorded in its proud history another grand event that demonstrates more clearly the prestige of our dignified and independent powerful country.

With our noble ideals and our sacred cause rising to a higher stage of success and victory, we can brave

and overcome the more severe ordeals and adversity.

Today our struggle is accompanied by unprecedentedly extreme difficulties, and we do not know what kind of challenge we may face next.

Yet it is clear to all that our Republic is progressing without the slightest hesitation and vacillation and will continuously advance and grow stronger in the future, too.

This is because our cause, our ideology and our line all represent justice and truth, and we have the great might of the firm single-hearted unity of the Party and the masses which nobody can break.

Comrades,

Victory is surely on our side, and the more we exert ourselves, the sooner that victory will come.

For the eternal prosperity of our Republic, our beloved mother, for the promotion of the well-being of our great people, and for the victorious advance of our unique style of socialism, let us all march forward more dynamically, closely rallied behind the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea with one mind and purpose.

Long live the Democratic People's Republic of Korea!

KIM JONG UN

**POLICY SPEECH AT THE
SEVENTH SESSION OF THE 14TH
SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Published by Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea

Issued in December 2024

No. 2481414

